

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00198 221344Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

-----221345Z 012108 /44

O 221235Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4858

S E C R E T LUSAKA 0198

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH ZA

SUBJ: RICHARD CONVERSATION WITH MUZOREWA

REF: STATE 013993; LUSAKA 0197

1. RICHARD MET WITH MUZOREWA AND A GROUP OF HIS FOLLOWERS ON THURSDAY THE 20TH AND IT WAS ARRANGED THAT HE WOULD SEE THEM AGAIN ON MONDAY THE 24TH. MUZOREWA HAD ALREADY TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE BELIEVED THE RICHARD PROPOSALS COULD "FORM THE FOUNDATION" FOR NEGOTIATIONS. THE CONVERSATION DID NOT DISCUSS THE PROPOSALS IN DETAIL ALTHOUGH MUZOREWA DID EXPRESS SOME DOUBT ABOUT THE ADVISORY COUNCIL AND NOTED THAT THE CHIEFS OF STAFF MUST BE TRUSTWORTHY.

2. RICHARD ASSURED MUZOREWA THAT THE COMPOSITION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED. HE EXPLAINED THAT NIETHER KAUNDA NOR NYERERE HAD ADVOCATED EXCLUSION OF PARTIES OTHER THAN THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.

3. MUZOREWA ACCUSED RICHARD OF BEING PARTIAL TOWARD THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND EVEN OF TAKING ORDERS FROM IT. THE BRITISH AGREEMENT TO PRESENT A WRITTEN PROPOSAL WAS BASED ON NKOMO'S INSISTANCE. HE SAID THE BRITISH CONSULTED MORE FREQUENTLY WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. RICHARD OF COURSE DENIED THESE ACCUSATIONS.

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4. MUZOREWA AND HIS GROUP PRESSED FOR AN EARLY REFERENDUM OR "POPULARITY CONTEST", NOTING THAT IF IT HAD ALREADY TAKEN PLACE THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO RECOGNITION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT BY THE FRONTLINE WHICH WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED THE RESULTS. RICHARD POINTED TO THE DANGER OF HOLDING A REFERENDUM WHILE SMITH WAS STILL IN CONTROL AND NOTED THAT SOME OF THE NATIONALISTS WOULD

BE PROHIBITED FROM TAKING PART. HE TOLD MUZOREWA THAT HE WAS FACED WITH ONLY TWO ALTERNATIVES: RETURNING TO GENEVA OR MAKING A DEAL WITH SMITH. MUZOREWA SAID HE WAS OPPOSED TO MAKING A DEAL WITH SMITH BUT THAT MANY OF HIS FOLLOWERS WERE URGING HIM TO DO SO. RICHARD SAID IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR BRITAIN TO ACCEPT THE RESULTS OF ANY SUCH REFERENDUM.

5. RICHARD COMMENTED IN HIS MESSAGE THAT MUZOREWA WAS FACED WITH A SERIOUS DILEMMA. HIS FOLLOWERS WERE RESENTFUL OF THE FRONTLINE ACTION AND THERE HAD BEEN AN UPSURGE OF SUPPORT FOR HIM. HE BELIEVES MUZOREWA WILL ACCEPT THE PROPOSALS AND THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO NEGOTIATE WHILE KEEPING HIS OPTIONS OPEN.

6. DEPT PLEASE PASS TO LONDON AND CAPETOWN. LOW

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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